

There are four different versions of our Pond Explorers session available depending on your area of focus. Please click on the one you're interested in:

[Identification and classification](#)

[Animal diets and food chains](#)

[Habitats](#)

[Life cycles](#)

Session title	Pond Explorers (Classification)	
Key question	Which animals live in a pond?	
Session description	With purpose-built raised ponds and specialist equipment, including electronic microscopes and screens, WWT London is one of the very best places in the country to come pond dipping.	
Key Stage suitability	KS1	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	KS1 Science Year 1 Animals, including humans - Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores Year 2 Living things and their habitats - Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other - Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats - Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food Animals, including humans - Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults - Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)		
Learning outcomes	Most learners	More able learners	
	Will be able to use pond dipping equipment safely and effectively to catch animals with minimal disturbance to the habitat Will be able to describe the observable features of a pond animal Will be able to group animals based on observable characteristics	Will be able to use a branching key to identify common invertebrates Will be able to describe the features of a taxonomic class (Insects, Molluscs, Crustaceans, Fish, and Amphibians)	
Key vocabulary	Classification Invertebrates Vertebrates Amphibians	Arthropods Crustaceans Molluscs Arachnids	Adaptations Species

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	10 mins
Learners are given a quick introduction to the session and what will be covered, explaining that we will be looking at animals in the pond and sorting them into groups.	
Activity 1: Demonstration	5 mins
Learners are given a demonstration of the pond dipping activity, including important health and safety considerations.	
Activity 2: Pond dipping	15 mins
Learners carry out the pond dipping activity.	
Activity 3: Choosing an animal to study	5 mins
Learners identify and choose one animal from their pond dipping activity to investigate further.	
Activity 4: Investigation and recording in small groups	15 mins
Learners use ID keys to identify and classify their animals. Key questions will be posed so learners can explore how animals are classified.	
Plenary	10 mins
Groups are invited to share information about their animal.	

Session title	Pond Explorers (Diets)
Key question	What do different pond animals eat?
Session description	With purpose-built raised ponds and specialist equipment, including electronic microscopes and screens, WWT London is one of the very best places in the country to come pond dipping.
Key Stage suitability	KS1
Duration	1 hour

Curriculum links	KS1 Science Year 1 Animals, including humans - Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores Year 2 Living things and their habitats - Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other - Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats - Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food Animals, including humans - Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults - Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)		
Learning outcomes	Most learners	More able learners	
	Will be able to use pond dipping equipment safely and effectively to catch animals with minimal disturbance to the habitat Will be able to describe the observable features of a pond animal Will understand that different animals will have different diets	Will be able to describe different diets of pond animals Will be able to describe what an animal eats based on observations and information provided	
Key vocabulary	Diet Predator Prey	Carnivore Herbivore Omnivore	Scavenger Detritivore Adaptations

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	10 mins
Learners are given a quick introduction to the session and what will be covered, thinking about what different animals eat in the pond.	
Activity 1: Demonstration	5 mins
Learners are given a demonstration of the pond dipping activity, including important health and safety considerations.	

Activity 2: Pond dipping	15 mins
Learners carry out the pond dipping activity.	
Activity 3: Choosing an animal to study	5 mins
Learners identify and choose one animal from their pond dipping activity to investigate further.	
Activity 4: Investigation and recording in small groups	10 mins
Learners spend time observing their animal and recording their observations. Key questions will be posed so learners can explore what their animal eats in the pond.	
Plenary	10 mins
Groups are invited to share what and how their animals eat in the pond.	

Session title	Pond Explorers (Habitats)
Key question	How do animals survive in this habitat?
Session description	With purpose-built raised ponds and specialist equipment, including electronic microscopes and screens, WWT London is one of the very best places in the country to come pond dipping.
Key Stage suitability	KS1
Duration	1 hour

Curriculum links	KS1 Science Year 1 Animals, including humans - Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores Year 2 Living things and their habitats - Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other - Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats - Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food Animals, including humans - Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults - Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)	
Learning outcomes	Most learners	More able learners
	Will be able to use pond dipping equipment safely and effectively to catch animals with minimal disturbance to the habitat Will be able to describe the observable features of a pond animal Will be able to identify different micro-habitats within a pond	Will be able to recall a pond animal's adaptations based on observations and information provided Will be able to describe why it is important to conserve ponds
Key vocabulary	Habitat Micro-habitat Adaptations	Herbivore Carnivore Scavenger Omnivore Detritivore

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	10 mins
Learners are given a quick introduction to the session and what will be covered, thinking about what animals need to survive in the pond.	
Activity 1: Health and safety briefing	5 mins
Learners are given a demonstration of the pond dipping activity, including important health and safety considerations.	

Activity 2: Pond dipping	15 mins
Learners carry out the pond dipping activity.	
Activity 3: Choosing an animal to study	5 mins
Learners identify and choose one animal from their pond dipping activity to investigate further.	
Activity4: Investigation and recording in small groups	15 mins
Learners spend time observing their animal and recording their observations. Key questions will be posed so learners can explore how their animal survives in their habitat.	
Plenary	10 mins
Groups are invited to share how their animal lives in a pond.	

Session title	Pond Explorers (Life Cycles)
Key question	How do pond animals grow?
Session description	With purpose-built raised ponds and specialist equipment, including electronic microscopes and screens, WWT London is one of the very best places in the country to come pond dipping.
Key Stage suitability	KS1
Duration	1 hour

Curriculum links	KS1 Science Year 1 Animals, including humans - Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores Year 2 Living things and their habitats - Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other - Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats - Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food Animals, including humans - Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults - Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)		
Learning outcomes	Most learners	More able learners	
	Will be able to use pond dipping equipment safely and effectively to catch animals with minimal disturbance to the habitat Will be able to describe the observable features of a pond animal Will be able to recall a pond animal's life cycle based on observations and information provided	Will be able to describe why it is important to conserve ponds Will understand the notion of metamorphosis and how it applies to some of the animals living in a pond	
Key vocabulary	Breeding Reproduction Development Metamorphosis	Carnivore Herbivore Scavenger Detritivore	Omnivore Larvae Nymph

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	10 mins
Learners are given a quick introduction to the session and what will be covered, thinking about how different animals grow in the pond.	
Activity 1: Demonstration	5 mins

Learners are given a demonstration of the pond dipping activity, including important health and safety considerations.	
Activity 2: Pond dipping	15 mins
Learners carry out the pond dipping activity.	
Activity 3: Choosing an animal to study	5 mins
Learners identify and choose one animal from their pond dipping activity to investigate further.	
Activity 4: Investigation and recording in small groups	10 mins
Learners spend time observing their animal and recording their observations. Key questions will be posed so learners can explore how their animal grows in the pond.	
Plenary	10 mins
Groups are invited to share how their animal grows in a pond.	